

REMARKS

THE CLAIMS

Claims 1-35, 38-40 and 43 were examined in the latest Office Action. The allowance of claims 1-35 and 38-40 is noted, with appreciation. Claim 43 – the only rejected claim – has been canceled by this Amendment, leaving only allowed claims in the application.

THE DRAWINGS

The Office Action Summary indicates that the drawings filed on September 1, 2000 are objected to by the Examiner. However, formal drawings were filed on August 27, 2003, but were not acknowledged. A copy of the formal drawings, together with a copy of the date-stamped postcard receipt for same, are attached hereto for the convenience of the Examiner. Approval of the formal drawings is respectfully requested.

CONCLUSION

It is respectfully submitted that the application is now in condition for allowance. The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned by telephone if it is felt that a telephone interview would advance the prosecution of the present application.

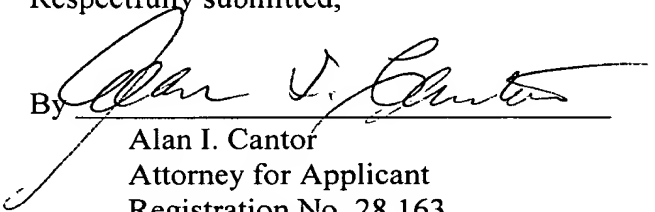
The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required regarding this application under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16-1.17, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account No. 19-0741. Should no proper payment be enclosed herewith, as by a check being in the wrong amount, unsigned, post-dated, otherwise improper or informal or even entirely missing, the Commissioner is authorized to charge the unpaid amount to Deposit Account No. 19-0741. If any extensions of time are needed for timely acceptance of papers submitted herewith, Applicant hereby petitions for such extension under 37 C.F.R. §1.136 and authorizes payment of any such extensions fees to Deposit Account No. 19-0741.

Respectfully submitted,

Date **DEC 18 2003**

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